

Message Text

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ACTION SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 SCI-06 AID-20 ARA-16

DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SY-10

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INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

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FOR SCI, S/NM

GENEVA PASS AMBASSADOR VANCE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, UN, UR

SUBJ: PREPARATIONS FOR COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS (CND)

MEETING: US VIEWS ON AGENDA ITEMS 9 AND 11

REF: A. STATE 24898

B. STATE 24153

C. STATE 26073

D. STATE 27751

SUMMARY: EMBOFFS MET WITH DR. E.A. BABAYAN OF MINHEALTH AND
E.R. SVIRIDOV OF MFA LEGAL AND TREATY DIVISION FEBRUARY 11
AND RAISED POINTS IN REFTELS. BABAYAN AND SVIRIDOV WILL BE
THE SOVIET DELEGATES TO THE CND MEETING IN GENEVA. ALTHOUGH
BABAYAN DECLINED TO GIVE DETAILED REACTION, BOTH PROMISED TO
STUDY US POSITION, ESPECIALLY ON GREATER UTILIZATION OF POPPY
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STRAW INSTEAD OF INCISED BUDS IN PRODUCING MEDICINAL OPIATES,

AND INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD PROVIDE THE EMBASSY WITH THEIR VIEWS PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE FOR GENEVA, IF POSSIBLE. IN REGARD TO THE QUESTION ON ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE CND, AS PROPOSED BY MEXICO, BABAYAN STATED THAT THE USSR IS ALREADY ON RECORD AS FAVORING THE PRESENT BIENNIAL MEETING SCHEDULE. BABAYAN ADDED THAT THE SOVIET DELEGATION DOES NOT PLAN TO TAKE UP ANY NEW INITIATIVES AT THE MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. IN FEBRUARY 11 MEETING WITH BABAYAN OF MINHEALTH AND SVIRIDOV, NARCOTICS SPECIALIST FROM MFA LEGAL AND TREATY AFFAIRS DIVISION, SCI COUNSELOR DESCRIBED US POSITION AS COMMUNICATED IN REFTELS AND LEFT NON-PAPER FOR STUDY AND COMMENT PRIOR TO THEIR DEPARTURE FOR CND MEETING AT GENEVA.

2. BABAYAN AND SVIRIDOV WILL BE THE SOVIET DELEGATES TO THE CND MEETING.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION OF WHETHER USSR SUPPORTS US POSITION FOR MORE EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF POPPY STRAW AND SHIFTING FROM USE OF INCISED BUDS FOR THE PRODUCTION OF OPIATES, BABAYAN PROMISED TO STUDY THE US PROPOSAL AND INFORM THE EMBASSY OF THE USSR POSITION BEFORE DEPARTING FOR GENEVA, IF POSSIBLE. BABAYAN NOTED THAT THE USSR IS ALREADY USING STRAW PRODUCTION TO AN INCREASING EXTENT BUT THAT BETTER METHODS FOR OBTAINING OPIUM BASE FROM STRAW MUST BE DEVELOPED IN ORDER FOR THIS TO REPLACE COMPLETELY THE USE OF OPIUM GUM FROM BUDS. BABAYAN POINTED OUT THAT METHODS NOW USED FOR POPPY STRAW PROCESSING YIELDED SATISFACTORY QUANTITIES OF CERTAIN OPIATES, BUT NOT OF OTHERS FOR WHICH GUM OPIUM REMAINED BEST SOURCE. FOR THIS REASON, RELIANCE ON GUM OPIUM WILL CONTINUE UNTIL POPPY STRAW PROCESSING IS IMPROVED. IN THE MEANTIME, BABAYAN NOTED THAT PROBABLY THE MOST VIABLE MEANS NOW AVAILABLE TO DECREASE THE GAP BETWEEN GROWING REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICINAL OPIATES AND LICIT PRODUCTION IS TO CONCENTRATE ON PURELY AGRICULTURAL ASPECTS, SUCH AS INCREASING CROP YIELDS PER GIVEN AREA, MECHANIZING HARVESTING AND MAKING IT MORE EFFICIENT WITH LESS WASTE, AND SO ON. THE USSR IS PRESENTLY CONDUCTING SOME RESEARCH ON MORE EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION OF POPPY STRAW AND ON INTENSIFYING YIELDS ON THE PRESENT SOWN AREAS, WHICH THE USSR DOES NOT PLAN TO EXPAND. THE USSR PLANS TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTINUE PRODUCING OPIATES FROM BOTH SOURCES TO ENSURE A SUFFICIENT QUANTITY FOR MEDICINAL USE.

4. ASKED WHETHER THE USSR IMPORTS/EXPORTS OPIATES, BABAYAN SAID THAT THE USSR IS IMPORTING GUM OPIUM FROM INDIA BECAUSE ITS OWN PRODUCTION IS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR ITS NEEDS. HE ADDED THAT THE IMPORTATION LEVEL WOULD REMAIN FAIRLY CONSTANT BARRING UNEXPECTED SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICINAL OPIATES

SUCH AS IN THE CASE OF AN INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC. AT THE SAME TIME, THE USSR EXPORTS "SOME" OPIUM STRAW, BUT BABAYAN DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER EXPORTS WOULD INCREASE OVER THE PRESENT LEVEL.

5. AS TO THE ISSUE OF HAVING REGULAR ANNUAL SESSIONS OF THE CND, AS PROPOSED BY MEXICO, BABAYAN SAID THAT THE USSR'S POSITION REMAINS AS PREVIOUSLY PUT ON THE RECORD, NAMELY THAT EXCEPT FOR SPECIAL SESSIONS, THE MEETINGS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE HELD ON A BIENNIAL BASIS, AND THAT THE USSR IS IN AGREEMENT WITH THE US ON THIS POINT.

6. BABAYAN SAID THAT THE SOVIET DELEGATION DOES NOT INTEND TO BRING ANY NEW INITIATIVES TO THE CND MEETING AND INTENDS TO GO ALONG WITH THE SCHEDULED AGENDA.

7. THROUGHOUT THE MEETING, BABAYAN WAS CAREFUL TO CONFINE HIS COMMENTS LARGELY TO PREVIOUSLY STATED SOVIET POSITIONS ON THE MATTERS AT HAND AND DID NOT VOLUNTEER ANYTHING NEW.

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